

Claim Listing

1. (Original)

A container and cap combination, the container having a container body which defines an interior of the container and a container opening for communication between the interior of the container and an exterior of the container and the cap being reusable to seal the container opening, the container body comprising:

a cap retainer for storing the cap in a storage configuration when the cap is not being used to seal the opening, the cap retainer comprising a slot elongated in a longitudinal direction, the slot defined by first and second sidewalls of the container which extend in the longitudinal direction and which are spaced apart from one another in a transverse direction, the slot having at least one open end, the at least one open end providing a transversely extending space between the first and second sidewalls at a longitudinal end of the first and second sidewalls;

wherein the first and second sidewalls comprise corresponding first and second contact surfaces which engage corresponding first and second side surfaces of the cap to secure the cap in its storage configuration within the slot and wherein the first and second side surfaces are located on opposing exterior peripheral edges of a side portion of the cap.

2. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to claim 1 wherein the cap is slidable in the longitudinal direction of the slot from the at least one open end of the slot to its storage configuration.

3. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 1 to 2 wherein the cap is secured in its storage configuration by frictional forces between the first and second contact surfaces and the corresponding first and second side surfaces.

4. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 2 to 3 wherein the cap is secured in its storage configuration by pressure associated with elastic deformation of at least one of: the cap and the first and second sidewalls.

5. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein at least one of the first and second sidewalls comprises at least one sidewall point and wherein a transverse dimension of the slot is narrower in a region of the at least one sidewall point when compared to a transverse dimension of the slot in a region of the first and second contact surfaces.

6. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to claim 5 wherein the at least one sidewall point is located between the at least one open end of the slot and the region of the first and second contact surfaces.

7. (Currently amended)
A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 5 to 6 wherein the first sidewall comprises a first sidewall point, the second sidewall comprises a second sidewall point and the first and second sidewall points are located directly, transversely across the slot from one another.
8. (Currently amended)
A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 5 to 7 wherein the first and second sidewalls each comprise a pair of sidewall points and the first and second contact surfaces are located between the pairs of sidewall points.
9. (Currently amended)
A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 5 to 8 wherein each of the first and second sidewalls comprises a plurality of sidewall points and a plurality of contact surfaces and each contact surface is located between a pair of the sidewall points.
10. (Currently amended)
A container and cap combination according to claim 1 wherein the slot comprises a first region between the first and second contact surfaces and a second region between the first region and the at least one open end of the slot and wherein the second region is narrower in the transverse direction than the first region.
11. (Currently amended)
A container and cap combination according to claim 10 wherein the cap is slidable in the longitudinal direction from the at least one open end of the slot past the second region to the first region.
12. (Currently amended)
A container and cap combination according to any one of claims ~~1-11~~ 1 to 11 wherein the first and second contact surfaces are curved to correspond to a shape of the side portion of the cap.
13. (Currently amended)
A container and cap combination according to any one of claims ~~1-11~~ 1 to 11 wherein the cap retainer comprises a wall of the container which extends in the transverse direction between the first and second sidewalls at one end of the slot.
14. (Currently amended)
A container and cap combination according to claim 13 wherein the transversely extending wall comprises an additional contact surface which engages the cap for securing the cap in its storage configuration.

15. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to claim 14 wherein the first and second contact surfaces of the sidewalls and the contact surface of the transversely extending wall are curved to correspond to a shape of the side portion of the cap.

16. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 1 to 15 wherein the first and second sidewalls comprise an outwardly opening tapering angle in a range of $\theta-5^\circ$ $0^\circ-5^\circ$.

17. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 1 to 16 wherein the cap comprises a lip which projects radially outwardly from its side portion and wherein each of the first and second sidewalls comprises a corresponding groove for receiving the lip when the cap is in its storage configuration.

18. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 1 to 17 wherein the first and second sidewalls extend inwardly from a container wall and a base of the slot is depressed relative to the container wall.

19. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 1 to 17 wherein the first and second sidewalls extend outwardly from a container wall and a base of the slot is level with the container wall.

20. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 1 to 17 wherein the first and second sidewalls extend inwardly from a container base and a base of the slot is depressed relative to the container base.

21. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 1 to 17 wherein the first and second sidewalls extend outwardly from a container base and a base of the slot is level with the container base.

22. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 1 to 21 wherein at least one of the first and second contact surfaces and the first and second side surfaces are coated with a layer of an elastomeric material.

23. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to claim 22 wherein the cap is secured in its storage configuration by frictional forces between the layer of elastomeric material and one of the first and second contact surfaces and the first and second side surfaces.

24. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 22 to 23 wherein the cap is secured in its storage configuration by pressure associated with elastic deformation of the elastomeric material.

25. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination, the container having a container body which defines an interior of the container and a container opening for communication between the interior of the container and an exterior of the container and the cap being reusable to seal the container opening, the container body comprising:

a cap retainer for storing the cap in a storage configuration when the cap is not being used to seal the opening, the cap retainer comprising a ~~circularly symmetric~~ depressed region for receiving the cap, the depressed region ~~having a depth that is greater than or equal to a height of a side portion of the cap and the depressed region~~ located between a plurality of lobes which are angularly spaced apart around a circumference of the depressed region;

wherein each of the lobes comprises a contact surface which engages the side portion of the cap for securing the cap in its storage configuration and wherein the container comprises channels between each of the lobes ~~for permitting finger access to remove the cap from its storage configuration.~~

26. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to claim 25 wherein each of the container contact surfaces is oriented at a tapering angle such that each of the contact surfaces extends radially away from a center of the depressed region as it each of the contact surfaces extends outwardly from the depressed region.

27. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to claim 26 wherein the tapering angle is in a range of ~~0-5°~~ 0°-5°.

28. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 25 to 27 wherein the depressed region is located in a base of the container.

29. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 25 to 27 wherein the depressed region is located in a container wall.

30. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according any one of claims 25 to 29 wherein the cap is secured in its storage configuration by frictional forces between the contact surfaces and an exterior surface of the side portion of the cap.

31. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 25 to 30 wherein the cap is secured in its storage configuration by pressure associated with elastic deformation of at least one of: the cap and the lobes.

32. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 25 to 29 and 31 wherein at least one of the contact surfaces of the lobes and an exterior surface of the side portion of the cap is coated with a layer of an elastomeric material.

33. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 30 to 32 wherein the contact surfaces are curved to correspond to a shape of the side portion of the cap.

34. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination, the container having a container body which defines an interior of the container and a container opening for communication between the interior of the container and an exterior of the container and the cap being reusable to seal the container opening, the container body comprising:

a cap retainer for storing the cap in a storage configuration when the cap is not being used to seal the opening, the cap retainer comprising a ~~circularly symmetrical~~ depressed region in the container body for receiving the cap;

wherein a side portion of the cap comprises one or more radially extending projections, each projection spanning an arcuate segment which is less than a circumference of the side portion of the cap; and

wherein each of the radially extending projections engages a corresponding contact surface of the ~~circularly symmetrical~~ depressed region for securing the cap in its storage configuration.

35. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to claim 34 wherein each of the radially extending projections are integrally formed with the cap.

36. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to claim 34 wherein each of the radially extending projections is fabricated from an elastomeric material that is different from the material from which the cap is formed.

37. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 34 to 36 wherein the cap is secured in its storage configuration by frictional forces between the contact surfaces and the radially extending projections.

38. (Currently amended)

A container and cap combination according to any one of claims 34 to 37 wherein the cap is secured in its storage configuration by pressure associated with elastic deformation of at least one of: the side portion of the cap, the radially extending projections of the cap and the contact surfaces.

Claims 39 – 57 (Canceled)